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March 9, 2023

Connecticut General Assembly Committee on the Environment
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **Opposition to SB 1148**

Dear Legislators,

I live in Sandy Hook and have been a resident of Connecticut since 1979.

I write to oppose SB 1148, "An Act Authorizing Certain Killing and Hunting of Black Bears."

Many of us live in relatively rural areas and occasional bear sightings should not trigger an outsized concern that there is an overpopulation of bears. We shouldn't have the environmental expectations of a person living in an urban area.

Black bears are primarily vegetarian and alleged black bear attacks on humans are extremely rare. In addition, there is no guarantee that the bears that are killed are the same exact bears that some believe are a threat.

Bear populations can be self-regulating because birth rates are affected in the long term by food supplies and habitat changes.

There are non-lethal methods to prevent interaction with bears. Removal of unsecured trash, bird feeders and other attractants will do more to prevent bear interactions than a hunt.

Humans and pets, such as my dogs, can live in harmony with wildlife with simple common sense measures and without the need to eradicate another species.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Farfaglia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles J. Farfaglia